



GHOSTRIDER GAZETTE

Golf Battery, 1-79 Field Artillery

Class 13-09, 13FEB09, Week 9



Dear Family Member,

Your Soldiers have successfully completed their ninth week of Basic Combat Training (BCT) and are in the home stretch! This week was definitely the most physically and mentally challenging week yet for your Soldiers. After having the opportunity for religious services on Sunday and conducting a few convoy live fire exercise (CLFX) rehearsals, your Soldiers began the fifth portion of their situational training exercise (STX V). The STX V (Freedom Town) lane puts the Soldiers in situations to learn how a squad moves, communicates, and works in a tactical environment. They also learned how to engage local foreign leaders (civilians on the battlefield) and ask tactically related questions while still being good American Ambassadors. Our STX IV lane was combined with our STX VI lane and made for a some-what long, but very good and realistic training scenario. On the STX IV/VI lane the Soldiers encountered and reacted to situations such as reacting to an IED (Improvised Explosive Device), reacting to a sniper, reacting to an ambush, and engaging local nationals to find a weapons cache combined with a MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) operation where your Soldiers conducted an operation to cordon and search buildings to find information that led to the capture of a high value target. On Wednesday, we had our convoy live fire exercise, and despite the windy weather, we were able to have a quality training event that taught your Soldiers how to communicate and fire from a moving vehicle during convoy operations. Thursday evening we conducted the night infiltration course that began at 2100 and finished at approximately 2200 and was followed by a 15 kilometer road march. The road march took 3 hours and 21 minutes and your Soldiers showed great motivation and over came essentially the toughest final graduation requirement. This road march culminated with a "Rights of Passage" ceremony, welcoming them as true Soldiers into the profession of arms in the U.S. Army. They are now authorized to wear the Black Beret.

There is just one short week until graduation. This Saturday through Tuesday will be filled with cleaning weapons and equipment to get ready for turn-in and rehearsals to make sure they look sharp for you when you come to visit on Family and Graduation days. This will be my last update to you on the status of your Soldier. The graduation letter and information packet has been sent out via U.S. Mail by self-addressed envelopes from your Soldiers. There is also a digital copy of packet included with this E-letter. The packet includes the graduation letter, area hotel/motel and transportation information, maps, a schedule of events, and a vehicle pass. Family day activities will begin Wednesday, 18 February 2009 at 09:30 a.m. in the Battery area. Graduation is Thursday, 19 February at 1:00 p.m. at McMahon Auditorium. You should not send any more mail, as it will likely be returned to the sender. If you have questions pertaining to an emergency concerning your Soldier, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward seeing you all at graduation!

Respectfully,

CPT Kyle A. Lippold

Ghostrider Soldier's In Action!



Soldiers practice the use of the SINCGARS radio system that they use on STX missions.



Soldiers tactically exit a compound in Liberty City during a cordon and search scenario.



Soldiers exit the back of a tactical vehicle to move to supporting fire positions during the convoy live fire exercise.



CPT Lippold awards the honor platoon streamer to 2nd Platoon 'Regulators'. They also earned the BRM, Hand Grenade, and Combat Conditioning Course streamers.

Additional Photos of Ghost Rider Soldier's In Action!

STX IV & VI Lane



Convoy Live Fire Exercise



Night infiltration Course & Rites of Passage Ceremony

